4. Boeing 737

5. Modonnel Douglas MD-30

6. Fokker F-28-4000

7. British Aerospace 146-100

The evaluation of the Airbus A320 aircraft vis-a-vis B-757 aircraft was made by the top management team of Indian Airlines comprising M.D., DMDs and other concerned departmental heads. The study was carried out with the help of officers of the Planning, Finance, Engineering, Operations Commercial and Training Departments. The proposal of Indian Airlines was thereafter considered by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in consultation with all concerned appraisal agencies before according Government approval.

Recruitment of technicians by Indian Airlines

1535. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports regarding delay in the recruitment technicians by Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the detals thereof; and

(c) what is the effect of this delay on the maintenance of aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATOIN (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) There has been no delay in recruitment of technicians in Indian Airlines.

(c) Since there is no delay in recruitment of technicians, the question of its effect on maintenance of aircraft does not arise.

Expansion of Indore Airport

1536. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the expansion of Indore airport and also for increasing the length of its runway:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the said work and what amount of financial allotment, have been made for the same; and

(d) by when the work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Airports Authority has a proposal to extend the existing runway by about 900' and recarpet the existing runway at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 crores. This work has been included in the Draft 8th Five Year Plan and would be taken up for execution by the NAA after the land is acquired and the 8th Plan proposals are approved.

(d) The work is expected to be completed in 18 months from the date of its commencement.

Steps taken for the imorovement of manpower training in Indian Airlines and Vayudoot

1537. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps that are being taken by Government to improve the manpower training, maintenance of aircrafts, adequate stocking of spare parts and navigational aids at the airports, in view of the recent airport accidents pertaining to Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): Adequate attention is laid to manpower planning particularly to the engineers and pilots as per the laid down standards. In so far as the requirement of manpower for

equipment is concerned. Civil Aviation Training College at Allaahbad takes care of the training requirements of the personnel. Improvement in aircraft maintenance is a continuous effort and its reliability is monitored regularly. Similarly upgradation of navigational aids at the airports is a continuous process. For improvement of navigational facilities, the National Airports Authority has drawn a perspective plan upto the year 2000-A.D. Augmentation of navigational facilities will take place in a phased manner subject to availability of funds. Adequate stocks of spare parts are maintained as per modern materials management systems.

Snags in Airbus A-320

1538. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether series of snags had been detected in new Airbus 320s during the last 2-3 months and if so, what are the details thereof:

(b) whether it is a fact that these snags were not attended to or glossed over due to the recent engineers' strike due to lack of training to pilots as also inadequate covered area for Airbus;

(c) whether these bottlenecks will be overcome in the near future; and

(d) whether Government proposed to increase the insurance aircover on passengers; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Some snags experienced by Indian Airlines in the operation of A320 aircraft relate to smoke in cabin, pressurisation system, hydraulic system, auxiliary power unit, nose wheel steering system and Radome.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The A320 aircraft represents a significant advancement in technology. Some teething problems are generally associated with the induction of any new type of aircraft. These problems have been discussed with the manufacturers and appropriate corrective action is being taken. A task force has been set up by the Indian Airlines to analyse the recurrent snags and take remedial action.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Flouting of orders pertaining to promotion of pilots

1539. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian Airlines has been flouring the orders of Government in the matter of promotion of pilots and even ignoring 'strictures' by courts; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) In Indian Airlines, there are two Court cases in the matter of selection of pilots from amongst pilots to the post of Deputy Operations Manager and Operations Manager in the High Court of Bombay and the High Court of Calcutta,, respectively. The Hon'ble Single Judge of the respective Courts has *inter-alia* held that allocation of 70 per cent marks for interview was high. Against the above judgements, Indian Airlines has filed appeals before the Division Benches of these High Courts. In the meantime, on the basis of observation made by the High Court of Bombay and also the advice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines has reduced weightage assigned to interview from 70 per cent to 50 per cent with effect from 6.12.1988 and raised the total marks Allocated in respect of Annual performance Appraisal from 30 per cent to 50 per cent.